

## HTML Tables

Tables provide a useful way to place text, images, etc., on a web page in relationship to one another. Tables are used heavily (maybe too heavily) in web design.

### The Table Tag

Tables are introduced and closed with `<table>` and `</table>`. Without the closing table tag a table will not show up at all on the web page, so this closing tag is very important.

There are 4 modifiers you might want to consider using with the beginning table tag. "Border" simply puts a line around the image, while "Border=x" puts a border "x" pixels wide around the image. "Cellpadding=x" puts "x" pixels of spacing between the contents of the cell and the border (kind of like matting a picture in a frame). "Cellspacing=x" makes the border "x" pixels wide between cells. The table also can use the align= modifier for center, left or right.

### Table Caption

The `<caption>xxx</caption>` tag pair, within the pair of table tags indicate a title for the table, outside the table, that can be placed either at the top of the table, or at the bottom of the table. The caption location is set with a modifier in the beginning tag, See "align=top" or "align=bottom".

### Table Rows

Between the opening and closing table tags, after the caption tag, tables are built row by row, `<tr>xxx</tr>`.

### Table Cells/Columns

Between the row tags, come either table header tags `<th>xxx</th>` or table data tags `<td>xxx</td>`. Table Header tags usually are used just for the top row, with the rest of the rows using table data tags. The number of th or td tags determines the number of columns in each row. Every row must have the same number of th or td tags to have a consistent number of rows. The number of td tags can be modified, though, to span more than one column, or more than one row. If that happens, one needs to keep track of the columns or rows spanned to keep the table lined up.

### Table Cell Modifiers

The first, opening table data tag can contain a number of modifiers. Those that affect the way data is displayed include

"colspan=x" which allows a single cell on a row to span more than one column, As indicated by the "x". If one uses this modifier, be sure to allow for the col span for the rows above and below the spanning cells.

"rowspan=x" allows a single cell to span more than one row. Be sure to reflect such a merger in allowances "for the lines above /".

"nowrap" directs that a cell cannot be broken up to wrap from one line to another, within the cell.

Some cells can become disproportionately positioned one full cell in a row can leave others with much blank space. The tag modifiers "align=x" and "valign=x" as allow for setting the horizontal alignment of the cell to left, center, or right, and for setting the vertical alignment to top, middle, bottom or baseline. This pertains to the text or images in the cell.

The tags "width=x" and "height=x" determines a fixed width and height for the cell in pixels.